SOUVENIR



PROFESSOR P. PARIJA FELICITATION

PROFESSOR P. PARIJA FELICITATION COMMITTEE

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Convener :

Dr. B. Padhi, Professor of Botany, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar

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SOUVENIR

for the

Felicitation of Professor P. Parija in his 85th year

Released by

Sri Jadunath Das Mohapatra

Minister for Education and Youth Services, Government of Orissa

on 17-4-76 at Vani Vihar

Produced by the Professor P. Parija Felicitation Committee.

PROFESSOR P. PARIJA FELICITATION

PROGRAMME

1. *Symposium* on

"Frontiers of Plant Sciences"

APRIL 16, 1976 — APRIL 17, 1976

More than thirty papers have been received from outstanding research workers from all over the country

2. **Professor Parija**

Annual Lecture

To be organised every year in different Universities of Orissa by turn.

3. **Professor Parija** *Research Fellowships* to be instituted later.

Glimpses into the life of Professor P. Parija



Dr. B. Padhi, Ph.D. (Calif.)
Professor and Head
Utkal University, Bhubaneswar

MANY Vice-Chancellors from all parts of the world had assembled in Toronto of Canada in September, 1958, on the occasion of the Commonwealth Universities Association meetings. Vice-Chancellor Eric Ashby of U.K. and a famous botanist read the name from the identity card attached to the coat lapel of an aged Indian Vice-Chancellor and eagerly mentioned "Sir, you have a classical name. Your name reminds me of a Botanist of Blackman and Parija fame. Are you related to that classical Parija ?" The Indian Vice-Chancellor answered, "You are right Sir, I am that classical person now fossilized." Ashby was overjoyed to meet the man whose research papers on plant metabolism were of very high order and considered basic to all the recent works and consequently classic. Ashby even mentioned that 'fossils are very essential in Botany.' That famous classical person from India was Professor P. Parija, the then Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University.

As Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University for four terms, and then as Pro-Chancellor for a term Professor Parija has nurtured the University from birth to almost adulthood and because of his endeavour the University has achieved its distinction. He was the chief architect of the Vani Vihar Campus. Thus the Utkal University is closely associated with his name. But the name 'Parija' conjures up many well lit images. As Professor of Botany and then Principal of Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, he brought glory and excellence to this main centre of higher education in the State. Under his guidance the Directorate of Agriculture in the State was born and grew up in a very healthy and fruitful way. Because of his recommendations the Sambalpur University and the Berhampur University were established.

Inside the State Parija has achieved distinction not only in education and agriculture but also in cultural and political fields. He was for

quite some time president of the 'Utkal Sahitya Samaja', the foremost literary organization and of the 'Utkal Sammilani' the prestigeous political organization of the Oriya-speaking people. He was even elected in 1952 a member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly for a term representing Balikuda, his home constituency as an independent candidate and proved himself an able legislator.

Dr. Parija has been associated with a number of scientific and academic bodies in the country. He was President of the Botany Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1930.

The Indian Botanical Society and the Journal of the Society grew up under his guidance for long time. He was a member of the Patna University Senate and Syndicate for several years and rendered valuable service in recognition of which Patna University conferred upon him the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) in 1944. In 1934 he was elected a Foundation Fellow of the National Institute of Science of India. From 1938 to 1961 he was a member of the court of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The Banaras Hindu University still fondly remembers the gains it made because of the service of Dr. Parija as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Honorary Professor of Botany from 1949-51. He was appointed a Member of the Central Advisory Board on Forest Utilisation in 1949. During 1953-54 he was appointed Chairman of the Expert Committee by the Government of India, Ministry of Food and Agriculture to inspect and report on the reorganisation of the Central Agricultural Research Institutes. In 1955 he was appointed a member of the Language Commission of India. In the same year he was awarded the 'Padmabhusan' by the President of India.

The highest recognition of a devoted scientific career came to Dr. Parija when he was elected the general President of the Indian Science Congress Association, of which he was previously the General Secretary for five years, to preside over the Bombay Sessions held in January 1960. It was a climax but not the culmination. During 1962-63 he was Chairman, standing Committee, Inter-University Board of India and Ceylon. In 1963 he was Chairman, General Education Committee, University Grants Commission. From 1966 to 1970 he was an active member of the Board of management of the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar and rendered very valuable service to the University which in recognition thereof conferred on him the Degree of D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) in 1976 January.

Professor Parija has been leading a very active and constructive public life. At the same time he is very much a happy family man. It is indeed rare to find such an integrated personality. There is in him, the integration of the best traditions of the east and west, science and culture, wit and wisdom and family and community. Every encounter with him is an enriching experience.

During the last 85 years in the life of Professor Parija there have been many achievements. It is difficult to detail the progression of events because of limitations of space and time. Only a few important ones of the multifaceted life can be highlighted here.

Prankrushna Parija had a humble beginning. He was born on April 1, 1891, in a large joint family in a small village called Ichhapur, near Balikuda about 50 Km. from the District Headquarters Cuttack. His father, Biswanath was a low-paid forest guard in a far away place in the then princely State of Mayurbhanj. In a spirit of adventure he had gone so far in search of a livelihood in spite of communication difficulties, which, of course, prevented

him from coming home frequently and spending much time with the family. But whenever he came home he told his son tales of treesand forests creating a love of plants in him. Pranakrushna, the only son of his parents, was the apple of his mother's eyes. Jayanti Dei, the mother, lavished love on her only son. There was plenty of affection and adortion also from all other members of the large joint family as Prankrushna was the eldest son in his generation.

Pranakrushna started his education with a village school (Chatasali) master in a traditional classical way with much stress on memorisation. This training helped him later to remember hundreds even thousands of students and their guardians by name. In this school there was always plenty of merciless canning for wrong answers. So Pranakrushna, a clever boy,formed the habit of learning the lessons and giving correct answers. He was also well versed in the Hindu mythology and ethics by a thorough study of the Puranas. Thus a foundation capable of sustaining a high acadmic life was laid in the village chatasali.

After the primary education it was arranged that Pranakrushna should learn land record keeping as an apprentice from a distant relative. But fortunately his father came home on leave, a rare occasion. He arranged to admit his son in the Balikuda Middle English School in 1901. He finished the four years programme in three years and appeared in the final examination in 1904 at Cuttack. He stood first in the all Orissa examination and obtained a scholarship of Rupees four per month. Now new avenues and opportunities were available for higher studies.

Pranakrushna entered Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack as a dayscholar. There was no school hostel. He stayed with friends and their relatives in a crowded mess. One of the occupants had an attack of cholera. Pranakrushna nursed him to safety but he himself got the attack. Shri Benimadhab Das, the Headmaster, visited the ailing student and was shocked to see the miserable condition of the mess. After recovery Pranakrushna was taken away from the mess and accommodated in the Ravenshaw College Hostel due to the help and kindness of the Headmaster who loved him very much because of his scholarship and methodical hard work.The good pupil was also much influenced by Benimadhab Babu, the Brahma scholar who later became famous in the National struggle for independence. Shyama Sen of Cuttack, Madan Mohan Patnaik of Puri, Bankanidhi Patnaik of Khurda and Udayanath Garanayak of Angul were the classmates of Pranakrushna. In 1909 they appeared in the final entrance examination of Calcutta University and Pranakrushna stood 1st in Orissa and the 7th in the University, a great achievement.

With a monthly scholarship of Rs. 20/- Pranakrushna entered Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and studied science. He was influenced by Shri Jogesh Chandra Roy and Shri Bankim Chandra Mukherjee, Professors of Botany and Mathematics respectively.

For vacations Pranakrushna used to walk the distance (about 60 Km.) to and from his village. Sometimes he could travel by bullock-cart or boat. Anyway travelling was slow tiring and tedious. But he would lessen the tedium by gathering company and telling them funny stories. Thus he came in contact with larger sections of the community which widened his experience. His villagers were proud of "our Parani".

In 1911 Pranakrushna was 1st from Orissa but 5th in the Calcutta University I.Sc. Examination and went over to Calcutta to study B.Sc. in the Presidency College with a

Scholarship of Rs. 25/- per month. He stayed in the Hindu Hostel. He led a simple and austere life there.

Even then it was not possible to manage at Calcutta with the scholarship money. Basudeb Kanungo (Uncle of Shri Nityananda Kanungo) helped by giving him Rs. 10/- per month. This was magnificient charity. (later Prof. Parija bore almost all the expenses of Gour Chandra, son of Basudeb for his B. A. study at Calcutta to repay partially the burden and he helped innumerable needy students financially also.). But it was not enough. Pranakrushna had to augment his finances by a part time employment as a private tutor.

Pranakrushna loved plants and liked Botany under Jogeshchandra Roy but there was no provision of Honours teaching in Botany at the Presidency College. So he was forced to study Mathematics Honours. Physics Professor Jagadish Chandra Bose, Chemistry Professor Prafulla Chandra Roy and Mathematics Professors D. N. Mullick and Bankim Das Mukherjee were his teachers.

In Calcutta his class mates were Meghnad Saha, Satyen Bose, Nikhil Ranjan Sen, Gnyan Ghosh, Jnan Ghosh, Jnan Mukherjee, Rabindra Banerjee, N. K. Sidhanta etc. who later became giants in their fields. In the hostel he was close to Surya Kumar Bhuyan, Sashi Bhusan Chakrabarty and Pabitra Mohan Das from Assam. During those days he organized many cultural activities and started a manuscript magazine of Oriya writing with help from Narayan Misra.

In 1913 Parija passed the B.Sc. Examination with Mathematics Honours but because of difficulty in choice of subjects and lack of time to study due to his part-time employment he could not secure a place among the 1st three candidates. Even so he was awarded a Government Scholarship of Rs. 25/- per month under the auspices of the "Oriya Loka Sansad". This coupled with Rs. 25/- p.m. he was paid for a part-time employment as a student-assistant to attend to the use of the telescope on the roof of the Presidency College building in the evenings was just enough for his maintenance for his M.Sc. studies in Mathematics.

Parija could not complete M.Sc. at Calcutta. By then Bihar and Orissa was a separate Province and the Provincial Government decided to send highly meritorious students to U.K. for higher studies. Parija was an obvious choice from Orissa and S.R.U. Zaman was also selected from Bihar. Though the first world war had begun they went abroad in the September, 1914.

Parija entered Christ College of Cambridge University. Truly speaking Christ College is not like an Indian College but a hostel in which students and teachers live, work, study and play together, each student under the guidance of a Tutor. It is a unique institution from which Parija benefited immensely.

Parija finished the Tripos Part-I in 1916 and then studied Botany in Part II under Professors Seward and Blackman. In the Part-II examination in 1918 Parija stood first in the first class and thus secured the Frank Smart Prize and Fellowship for research. He began his investigation under the guidance of Blackman on the respiration of cherry laurel leaves. The result was the classical papers of Blackman and Parija. Even after two years of fellowship Parija was employed by the Government of the United Kingdom for a year to find out the best method of storing apples.

Parija stayed for seven years in Christ College where students from many parts of the Empire stayed and studied. Parija became

friend and guide to innumerable new comers. Birbal Sahni, Chintamon Deshmukh, Afzal Hussain, Hanumanthrai, Ramanujan, John Mathai and others were his contemporaries at Cambridge. Parija was Secretary and then President of the Indian students' Mujlis in Cambridge. Jinnah, Sreenibas Sastry, Sarojini Naidu, Tilak and many others addressed the members of the Mujlis during his tenure. Tilak was even his personal guest. Those were great days.

Parija returned to Orissa in 1921 August after seven years in England and joined the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack as the Professor of Botany in Indian Education Service (I.E.S.) and lived in the West Hostel as Warden. He came as 'Parija Saheb' with an aura of greatness. He captured the young mind immediately. Greatness emanated from his word and work, even form his walk.

Professor Parija was an ideal teacher. He became intimate with many students for whom he was the philosopher and guide. He inspired them more by example than by precept. He was kind and helped many needy students to tide over financial difficulties. He would eagerly lead student study groups to visit distant beauty spot in Orissa and in those trips he would amuse the tired students by many funny stories.

Parija Saheb married in 1922 Shrimati Sundarmoni, daughter of Shri Gourang Charan Kanungo of Balipadia on the north of the river Birupa. Sundarmoni brought magic and music to his life which became fuller.

Because of Professor Parija, provision for teaching Botany Honours was made in 1930 only in Ravenshaw College of Patna University. Ravenshaw College became a centre of higher learning and research in Botany in the country. Many tbrillian students were initiated there in research. The details are given in a separate article.

Professor Parija combined academic activities with social work. His work on aquatic weeds choking the water channels and his attempts to induce flood resistance, drought resistance and saline resistance in rice easily come to mind in this respect. His investigations to utilize the aquatic flora of the Chilka lake as raw material for manufacture of agar-agar are noteworthy.

Professor Parija remained as the Principal of Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, from February 1938 to April 1945. As Warden he had started the common mess system. As Principal he introduced the tutorial system to advise and guide students by personal contact. He initiated the novel but advanced idea of making student presidents of the College Union. He thus encouraged students to take up positions of power and responsibility. The student leaders of those days later have become the state's leaders in various fields. He was a strict disciplinarian but his justice was tampered with mercy. During his stewardship of Ravenshaw College, he established the system of annual extra-mural lectureship which were then the hub of the entire educated mess of Cuttack. He created the student Labour Bureau through which students could earn part maintenances and thereby self-reliance by own labour.

From 1943 to 1948 Professor Parija became the first Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University which he planted and nurtured to maturity. This story has been narrated separately.

In 1945 the Development Department of the Orissa Government was reorganised and the new Department of Agriculture was created. Dr. Parija became its first Director. "Grow more Food" became a great success because of his leadership. As a part of this campaign,

killing monkeys was necessary. In spite of the derision and discouragement of many devout Hindus he accomplished the impossible. It even attracted the attention of Mahatma Gandhi who commented that 'when there is competition between man and monkey, killing monkeys is surely preferable.'

In 1948 Dr. Parija retired from the Directorship of the Agriculture Department and his term for Vice-Chancellor of the Utkal University also ended. But he was not spared, Shri Govinda Malavya called upon him to sort out the numerous troubles of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in which position he stayed at Varanasi upto December 1951. He was elected for the post of the Vice-Chancellor of B.H.U. with the highest number of votes. But for political reasons he was bypassed. Maulana Azad requested him to continue but with dignity and prestige added to his name he resigned and returned home.

The day Dr. Parija reached Cuttack, the call came to accept the position of the Pro-Chancellor of the Utkal University. During his tenure he improved by his personal influence the quality of the university of Senate deliberations.

In 1952 there was the general election. With spontaneous public support Dr. Parija was elected to the Orissa Legislative Assembly as an independent member. He piloted the Cuttack Improvement Trust Scheme which could not immediately become operative due to various reasons. He, however, did not like the role of MLAs as village touts and refused a safe seat in the next general Election.

In 1955 September Dr. Parija became again the Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University for ten years and the University blossomed with new teaching Departments and Faculties with its own Campus at Vani Vihar. The Indians Science Congress Session held at Cuttack in 1962 under his guidance was a memorable event and even now is fondly remembered by many.

Dr. Parija like an old soldier never retired from public service. He is connected with many organizations which benefit by the association. He is the founder President of the Orissa Association for the Advancement of Science and the Academy of Biological Sciences.

The life of Prof. Parija is simple and systematic. He leads a regular and regulated life. The speed with which he takes decisions regarding complex problems is marvellous; intuitively quick. Seldom his decisions have been found faulty. His talent to guide, as the Chairman, the deliberations of meetings, large or small, smoothly and quickly is indeed rare. He is considered a wizard in this. His punctuality in the general lack of it in the average Indian milieu is legendary.

To all the personal relationships Professor Parija brings in lots of warmth and sympathy. His beaming bright large face, the lusturous eyes, disarming simplicity and rippling enthusiasm are magnetic. He speaks as little as possible to make his views clear but speaks with softness and sweetness. In dress, dealings and demenour he is a perfect gentleman. If one meets him once he would like to meet him again and again as one returns to a classic for repeated readings. Dr. Parija loves reading classics too. It is his hobby. Examples from classics easily surface in his talks to give emphasis to his points.

This is the life of Professor Parija in a nutshell. Beginning out of rural mud like a lotus it has grown upwards towards light and knowledge scattering learning and wisdom like fragrance across the country. Professor Parija is now 85. Ravages of time and calamities of life have tried to bend his body and spirit. He has sustained well. Yet by our prayer for good health and long life we only lend him a little support Amen.

Professor P. Parija's Contribution to Botany

Dr. Gadadhar Misra

YOUNG P. Parija after his Tripos was awarded the Frank Smart studentship by the University of Cambridge and he joined as a Research student in the famous Cambridge School of Botany and worked under the guidance of Professor F. F. Blackman.

He was given the problem of studying the drift in respiration of apples maintained in cold storage at 2.5°C. The point of interest was that in the ripening fleshy fruits senescence was the dominant stage of ontogeny. Side by side with the investigations on the respiration of apples, a good deal of work was carried out on the respiration of evergreen leaves which continue to exist in a state of maturity for very long periods of time. So, it was intended to find out whether the two types of organs, the evergreen leaves and the ripening fruits, so strikingly different from each other, manifest the same fundamental principles of catabolism.

In the first paper of this series of studies published in the year 1928, F. F. Blackman and P. Parija found that the observed respiration of an apple, in a current of ordinary air, is an integration of two independent and opposed processes that are at work in senescence. One is the starvation drift at 22°C, tending continually to lower the respiration while the other, tending to accelerate the respiration, is the lowering of organisation-resistance, expressed in this connection as rise of hydrolysis-facility.

In the second paper Parija (1928) presented the behaviour of a number of individual apples alternately in air and nitrogen. He found that the CO_2-production by oxygen-respiration (OR) is less than the CO_2-production by nitrogen-respiration (NR). Clearly then the total carbon loss is three or more times as large in nitrogen as that in air . What then happens to this deficit of carbon in air ?

The answer was presented by F. F. Blackman (1928) in part III of this analysis through a scheme of reactions comprising the respiration sequence of at least half a dozen catalysed reactions. It starts with carbohydrate reserves in the apples through hydrolysis to hexoses, then by actiuation to heterohexoses, then by glycolysis to methyl-glyoxal etc. These reactants for the last stage have alternative fates bound up with the presence or absence of O_2. In nitrogen, the final products are CO_2 + alcohol in the usual ratio. In air and other concentrations of oxygen the final products are water + CO_2. No final carbon derivative accumulates in the tissues during OR. So the logical conclusion was that in air part of the last-stage reactants is somehow worked back into the system continuously by oxygen and this they spoke of as oxidative anabolism, OA.

While still engaged in research at Cambridge, Parija got the appointment to the coveted Indian Educational Service and returned to India. He joined as Professor of Botany at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, on 4th August, 1921. He devoted his wholehearted attention to the development of the Botany department and succeeded in opening Botany at the B.Sc. Pass stage in 1924 and at the B.Sc. Honours

stage in 1930. His magnetic personality attracted students from all over India and Ravenshaw College soon sprang up as an active centre of research in Botany particularly of plant physiology. He took up problems both of fundamental nature as well as of applied nature which are still considered as vital problems for our country.

Studies on waterhyacinth and other aquatic weeds

The spread of waterhyacinth was so alarming that Expert Committees were set up all over India and Burma to study the details of the life history and method of control of this obnoxious weed. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research granted financial assistance to Prof. Parija to study the problem of waterhyacinths in Orissa. In this study B. K. Kar was the Chief research scholar. Transpiration and absorption studies were conducted by S. M. Sircar. Others who assisted in the research investigation were T.C.N. Singh, A. B. Saran, B. N. Sinha, B. K. Panda, and B. M. Senapati. The seeds of waterhyacinth were found to remain dormant at least for one season and retain their viability for 7 years. The type of germination of waterhyacinth seeds was like that of the date and the *Borassus*. Light hastens the floating of the waterhyacinth seedlings. Waterhyacinth is able to flourish in a very wide range of pH with an optimum growth between 6 to 8 pH. Waterhyacinth is able to resist a considerable degree of drought. $Cu\ SO_4$ was found to be the most effective poison against waterhyacinth, *Pistia* and *Salvinia*.

Studies on Respiration

P. Parija and A. B. Saran (1934) reported that short exposures to light raised the rate of respiration in the leaves of *Aralia*. Red light had no effect, while blue and violet light affected the respiratory rate in the same way as white light. The increase in the rate of respiration may be due to hydrolysis of the reserve, activation of the enzyme system or change in the permeability of the cells.

B. Samantarai (1938) studied the rate of respiration of the amphibious plant, *Scirpus articulatus* L. in both the phases of its life-cycle, under water and in air. Respiration of the scapes in air was greater than that in water. This was ascribed to the low concentration, 2.3.-2.6 per cent of dissolved O_2 in water.

Studies on Transpiration and Heat Resistance

P. Parija and P. Mallik (1936) noted that dryness alone did not induce cuticle formation in *Ficus religiosa*. Dryness coupled with light induced cuticle formation. Red rays were ineffective while blue rays induced cuticle formation.

P. Parija and B. Samantarai (1939) in their studies on the march of transpiration of a leaf since its measurable stage to its fall noted a charcteristic curve of transpiration for each leaf with a rise, then a fall to a steady value and finally a decline in *Datura alba*, *Helianthus annus* and *Ixora undulata*.

P. Parija and P. Mallik (1940) reported that oily seeds resist the effect of high temperature better than starchy ones. Among the oily seeds the greater the oil content, the higher the temperature they resist.

Studies on Experimental Morphology

P. Parija and P. Misra (1933) for the first time established that the thorns that arise on the stem of *Bridelia pubescens*, Kurz. are morphologically roots. The 'root-thorns' are apogeotropic and they grow as long as the atmosphere is humid. Light appears to have no effect on the direction of growth.

P. Misra (1935) studied the formation of the peg in the seedlings of *Cucurbita maxima*

Duchesne when the seed was germinated at different positions and under different light conditions. In seeds placed horizontally, flat or edgewise, and seeds placed vertically with their micropyle upwards, the radicle bent down and peg formed on the concave side. In seeds placed vertically with their micropyle downwards, the radicle grew straight down and pegs developed always nearest the slab. When no particular side of the radicle was influenced by gravity, but one side was darker, a negatively heliotropic peg developed on the less lighted side.

P. Parija and P. Mallik (1936) proved experimentally that turgescence in the cells of the fruit wall is not the only cause of bursting of the fruits of balsam. Suberisation of the cell-wall at the sutures of the five carpels of the fruits in longitudinal furrows also supplement turgidity in the mechanism of bursting.

P. Parija and K. Samal (1936) studied the distribution, structure and development of glandular hairs and extra-floral nectaries in *Tecoma capensis* Lindl. The origin of the extra-floral nectaries was confirmed to be from the glandular hairs. Regarding the function of the patelliform glands it was suggested that they probably help in self-pollition of the flowers by keeping the unwelcome ants fully fed with the profuse secretion of honey from these glands and thereby preventing them to visit other flowers which would have brought about cross-pollination.

B. N. Misra (1963) studied the occurrence of medullary cork in *Ipomoea crassicaulis*. The physiological anatomy of this plant as an adaptation to varied ecological habitats was fully worked out.

P. Parija (1967) observed growth of the ovary of *Momordica dioica* when the flowers were pollinated with the pollen of *Luffa acutangula*.

Studies on Rice

The Government of Orissa in the Department of Agriculture sanctioned one Rice Research Scheme from 1 April 1937 with Shri P. D. Dixit as the Rice Specialist. Prof. P. Parija was entrusted with the physiological aspects of this scheme. The investigations were done in Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. From 1 April, 1942 the physiological scheme was financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and was continued till 31 March, 1945. G. V. Chalam, K. P. Pillay and J. Das worked as Research Scholars in this scheme.

The quality of flood resistance was induced in the rice plants by pre-sowing treatments of the seeds by (*i*) low temperature at 2-5°C for 6 days, (*ii*) anaerobiosis (O_2 free air) for 3 days or (*iii*) anaerobiosis for 3 days plus low temperature for 3 days. The treated plants survived submersion under water better than the control plants and yielded higher. The flood-resistant varieties of rice revealed a peculiar anatomy of the presence of a sclerenchymatous band of tissue around the cortical lacunae in their stems.

The drought-resistance quality was induced into the rice plants by pre-sowing seed treatments at high temperature of 40—42°C.

The saline-resistance quality was induced into the rice plants by pre-sowing seed treatments with 1.7% of common salt solution. Saline-resistant varieties revealed the presence of highly suberized exodermis in their roots.

Breaking of dormancy in winter paddies with a view to growing them as 'Dalua' was achieved through various seed-treatments such as smoking, drying, dehusking and soaking with juice of germinated grains.

Studies on Algae

In the course of the investigation into the life-history of the weeds of the Chilka lake in

connection with the prevalence of malaria round the lake, P. Parija and B. Parija (1946) studied the algal succession on a little rocky island, named Charaiguha, inside the lake. Diatoms extend through all the zones and appear twice in a year. *Polysiphonia* appears from January to May and requires moderate salinity. *Ceramium* grows from February to April under high salinity. *Grateloupia* does not grow at the water edge but occupies lowermost zone to avoid damage by waves. It requires high salinity for its profuse growth. Diatoms and red algae can grow in deeper water and consequently in feebler light due to chromatic adaptations. Among the green algae that inhabit the lake were noted *Chaetomorpha*, *Enteromorpha* and *Cladophora*.

Parija, Pattnaik and Rao (1969) in the research scheme on 'Mass culture of Algae' financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research made a survey of the blue-green algae in soils of Cuttack. The predominant genera were *Phormidium*, *Microcystis*, *Cylindrospermum*, *Anabaena*, *Aphenotheca*, *Oscillatoria*, *Rivularia* and *Nostoc*.

Dr. Parija—The Architect of the University

Sri Gian Chand, I.A.S.,
Administrator

Leadership is of crucial importance for the proper growth and development of any institution, particularly of an education institution. Fortunate indeed are those institutions which got a leadership of high calibre in the early stages of their growth, for it is during this period that the future pattern of growth gets determined and foundations are laid for the superstructure to be built later on. The Utkal University has been singularly fortunate in this respect in having the benefit of the stewardship of Dr. Parija from its very inception. As its first Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Parija had a difficult and challenging task to perform. As we look back on the years which have rolled by, we find that he not only faced up to the task bravely and courageously, but also did it in a manner no one else could have done. He brought to bear upon his task the vast experience of men and situations gained over many years of distinguished career in the Indian education Service, his Scientific and modern outlook, his deep scholarship and above all his deep humanism with the result that what we see of the Utkal University today bears the stamp of his personality and the unique contributions made by him. Today, therefore, when the Utkal University has decided to felicitate Dr. Parija on his attaining 85th year, I recall with pride, his association and give an account of his signal contributions which he made on all aspects of this University.

The Utkal University came into existence in 1943 and rightly was Dr. Parija selected to head the new University. During this period when he came as the Vice-Chancellor, not only were the first steps taken to establish the administrative framework, but also to affiliate all colleges, to conduct all examinations, and to prepare the Regulations, Standing Orders and so on. The foundation was laid. Dr. Parija then left the University to render his service to the State Government and later on to the Banaras Hindu University, as its Pro-vice Chancellor. He continued, however, as the Pro-Chancellor of the Utkal University from 1951 to 1955.

The University had the good luck of having his stewardship for another two terms from 1955 to 1966. It was again during his stewardship of the University that the decision to start teaching departments was taken. In 1957, the Departments of Philosophy and Sanskrit were created. In 1958, the Departments of Psychology, Statistics, Political Science and Anthropology were started. Aware of the importance of education in Commerce in the State, he started M.Com. classes in the campus in 1962.

The third important phase in the growth of the Utkal University is the decision to locate the University at the present campus in Vani Vihar. It was a difficult decision to take and it was again during Dr. Parija's stewardship that the then President of India, the late Dr. Rajendra Prasad laid the foundation stone at Vani Vihar on the 1st January, 1958 and the campus was inaugurated by the late President Dr. Radha Krishnan on the 2nd of January,

1963. It would not, therefore, be an exaggeration to say that all the buildings and the plants which we see in Vani Vihar have the touch of Dr. Parija's personality.

Most of all that came up in the campus during the last decade, owes its origin to the masterly conception and the initiative taken by Dr. Parija during the period he was the Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Parija is also instrumental in the opening of the Science Departments which actually came into existence from 1967 onwards.

Dr. Parija's tenure of office as the Vice-Chancellor was also the period during which reforms in the structure of higher education and method of evaluation were brought about. Three year Degree Courses and Internal Assessment system were introduced during his Vice-Chancellorship.

Dr. Parija not only helped the growth of the University but also brought distinction through his personal achievements. He was well known in the field of Botany in the international sphere. He was elected the Vice-President of the 10th Botanical Congress held in Edinburgh in August 1964. The University Grants Commission appointed him as the Chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee on General Education. He was also elected to represent the Inter-University Board of India in the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities in 1963.

The Utkal University will remember Dr. Parija as its founder, architect and its soul. His achievements as a scholar, as a scientist and as an educationist have been inspiring and will continue to inspire succeeding generations of both teachers and students for a long time to come. The University has indeed been fortunate in having his association for well-nigh a quarter of a century and will always cherish it as one of the finest treasures it came to have.

Dr. Parija: What a man!

Nilamani Senapati
Bhubaneswar

Having known Dr. Pranakrushna Parija fairly intimately for 60 years I can say this about him:

I don't know if he ever took Pan (betel leaf). He has never touched tobacco or alcohol. He has never ridden a bicycle or driven a motor vehicle. He never touched a woman outside wed-lock. He was always used a throat cut razor such as barbers use. Now he may be using a safety-razor or perhaps get a barber to shave him. He has never been a borrower and if ever did he returned the money without being asked. He has lived like a Sanyasi, not being elated by happiness nor overwhelmed by tragedy of which he has had plenty.

What a man!

Dr. Parija, the taskmaster

Shri Guru Charan Mohanty
Bhubaneswar

Though Dr. Parija and I worked together in the same Institution for a period extending over 25 years (of course in different Departments) I do not however feel competent enough to touch on the life of such an illustrious person having international reputation among the front-ranking scientists in Plant Sciences and commanding high respect, love and affection of a vast mass of his people in his own state and outside. I do not however want to miss this opportunity which affords me a rare chance to express my personal gratitude for all I have learnt and gained in my life by my long association with him.

It was in 1909 when I was a student of 2nd class (at present 10th class) in the Mission High School, Cuttack, that I first came to know of one Pranakrishna Parija who occupied a place among the ten of the last Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University from the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack securing a Scholarship of Rs. 20/- which was then considered rare honour and credit for a student, more so for one coming from a backward area like Orissa. Almost the entire Eastern Region of India, *i.e.*, Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, was then under the Calcutta University. Even today I have clear recollection of the jubilation and commotion in the then student community at that happy news.

Parija returned from Cambridge in 1921, with a very successful career obtaining 1st class and with good research experience, to join the Ravenshaw College as Professor of Botany in I.E.S. He was also appointed as Warden in West Hostel of which I was then the Superintendent. I rember to have received him at the Cuttack Railway Station early in the morning at 4 A.M. with five students when he alighted from his compartment with a plain attire of Dhoti and Punjabi. This afforded me long desired opportunity to meet him for the first time. I worked under him for about a year when I was transferred to the East Hostel. We had, however, several occasions, both in official and private capacities, to come in close contact with each other. It will be worthwhile to mention few incidents that I recollect to show what kind of regard he had for rules and regulations of the Institution while working as Warden of the Hostel, Professor of Botany and also Principal of the College.

On one occasion a boarder whom I liked much for his multifarious activities in the hostel prolonged his stay in the hostel after completion of his University Examination disregarding the rules that he had to leave within 3 days despite my reminders. I had to report the matter to Dr. Parija as Warden and he immediately called for the student passing orders to leave the hostel within 24 hours. The student was very much affected by this order and burst into tears. I consoled him and brought him to my quarters to live with me for a few more days and Dr. Parija did not object to this arrangement, although my quarters was a part of the hostel building.

On another occasion a boarder occupying a room very near to the Warden's quarters used to leave the hostel at night after meals coming back early mornings without anybody's notice. But Dr. Parija marked this affairs and quietly locked his room keeping the key with him. The student was later on detected and was ordered to leave the hostel as a sort of correction measure. This shows how much personal interest he used to take of his wards, in their individual activities and movements while they were living in the Hostel.

It was perhaps in 1929 that there was a strong Congress movements in the town calling students to leave their educational institutions and hostels to join Satyagraha. We had prior information of the plan that outsiders would enter into College Hostels instigating boarders to come out to join the movement. Mr. Orgil, the then Principal of the College, convened a meeting of the Hostel Wardens and Superintendents in his quarters to discuss steps to be taken to meet the situation. Dr. Parija proposed to inform the Police so that they might be inside the college compound to prevent the entry of the instigators in case there was such attempt. Arta Baboo (Prof. of Sanskrit and Superintendent of East Hostel) and myself did not like this measure as it would lead to seriously affect our hold on and good relations with the students. We offered to take the responsibility on ourselves requesting the Principal to make us free from our lecture work for the day. Mr. Orgil readily accepted the suggestion and Dr. Parija also agreed with this proposal. Although we were of different views in hostel administration at times, Dr. Parija was never stubborn to stick to his views, having full regard and understanding for others, viewpoints.

In order to help poor needy students of his hostel he introduced a Labour Bureau in which students used to utilize their spare moments to bind and stitch exercise and college examination books for which they would get labour charges from the college office. As far as I know Dr. Parija used to set apart a portion of his salary for helping the poor, needy but deserving students, both of schools and college. Poor students appearing for University Examination used to find difficulties in depositing their examination fees. Very often he came to their financial aid. I have personal experience of such a case where a candidate for his M.Sc. Examination was in such trouble. I approached Dr. Parija to advance Rs. 100/ on his behalf and he paid the amount without any enquiry.

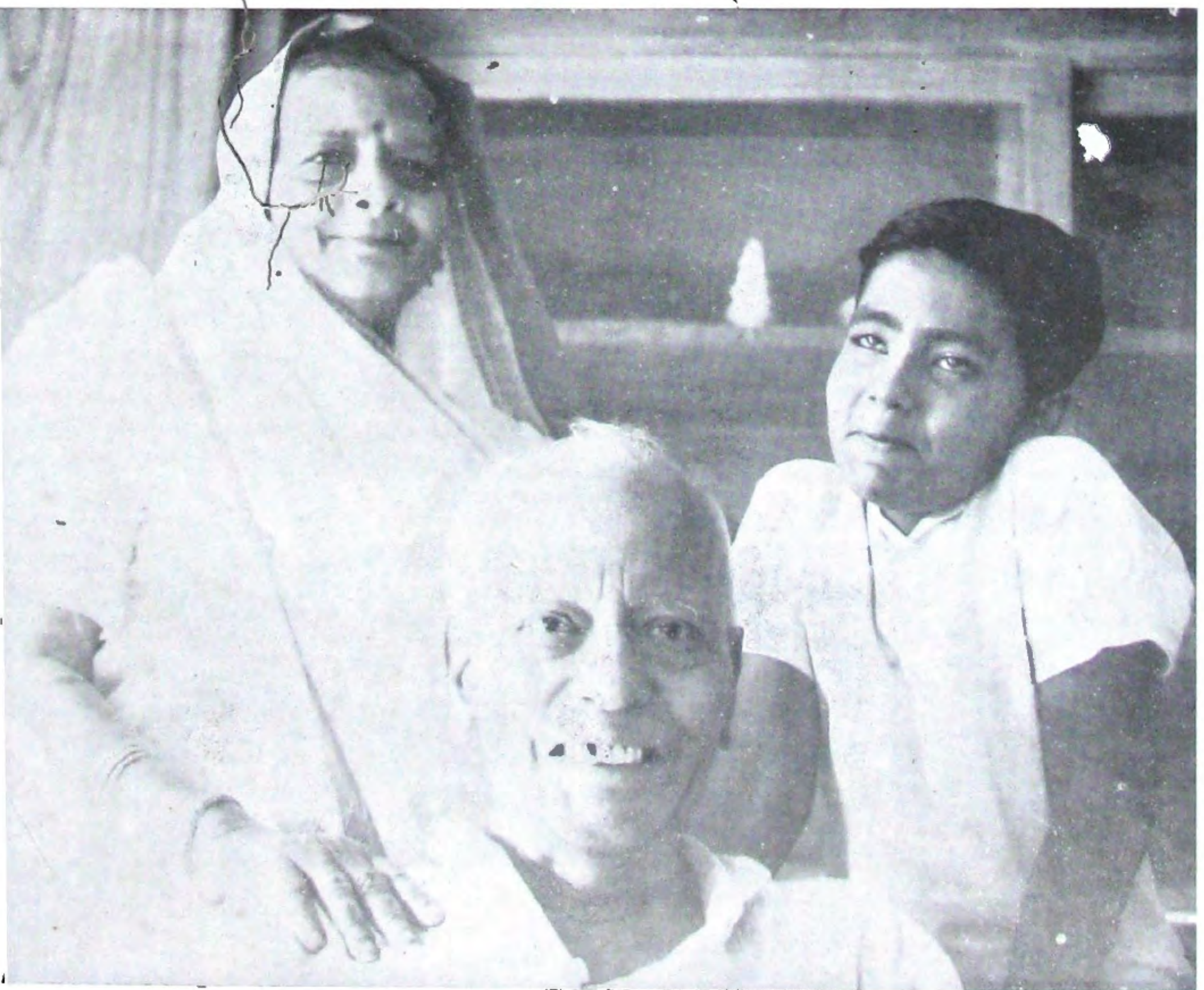
I happened to be the Vice-President of the College Social Service Guild of which Principal Parija was *ex officio* President. The accounts and annual report were to be examined and signed by the president before they were to be presented in the annual General Body for adoption. On one occasion I met him in the Principal's Office to obtain signatures in these papers. Another member of the teaching staff was also there. He was perhaps not in good mood at that time and treated me unpleasantly with harsh tone. I quietly left the room requesting him to give me some other time for the purpose. When I approached for the second time for this work he was very polite expressing regret before putting his signature for all that had happened on the last occasion. Though somewhat short-tempered at times he had no hesitation to make amends at a later stage.

Dr. Parija's advice and practical suggestions in difficult moments were so valuable and helpful. Once I was discussing with him about research work for beginners. His suggestion was to repeat the experiment of the published papers that could give substantial training for starting any original work.

Few instances mentioned above will throw some light on the worth and attainment of a

person occupying a very high position in the society and educational atmosphere for a long period even uptill today. As Secretary of the College Old Boys' Association for some years I remember how he used to take personal interest in extending invitations to persons lest somebody is left not through oversight. He used to be sometimes witty and mirthful in a small circle of friends or even in Committees and Sub-Committees that was quite enjoyable.

It is far from my wish to dilate matters by narrating my old age mumbling thoughts and experiences about a person with whom I was associated for a very long period in my life. Before concluding I can hardly resist my temptation to record my feelings that he is a genuine, polite and sympathetic friend as a fine man in the society, a popular and reputed teacher possessing very high character, a hard task master, and always helpful whenever approached and even believing in well controlled and disciplined life. I take this opportunity to offer my high personal regard and respect for him. I pray to God to grant him long peaceful and happy life so that his very presence will be a source of inspiration to large number of his friends, pupils and his countrymen.



Professor P. Parija with wife Smt. Sundaramani and grandson



Professor P. Parija with Pandit Nehru, the Chief Guest of the Cuttack Sessions (1962) of the Indian Science Congress

Professor Parija

M. Mohanti
Barrister-at-law
Kafla, Cuttack-2

I HAVE known Professor Dr. P. Parija for the last 54 years. In July, 1922, I was admitted to the First Year I.A. class of the Ravenshaw College. At that time, he was the Head of the Department of Botany of that College. Botany was one of the subjects that I chose for the I.A. Course. He was also the Warden of the Western Block of the College Hostel where I chose to reside. I came in close contact with him in those circumstances. Apart from these, somehow or other he fancied me for closer contact and co-operation in the extra-curricular activities of the College and the Hostel. For this reason, I was a constant invitee at his tea-table.

As a Professor, he was unique. His classes were always attractive and his lectures were always interesting. The reason was that his students never felt that they were being taught. He unfolded to them the mysteries of plant life in such an easy and conversational manner that his pupils felt as if they were engrossed in a mystery story. But, quite conscious of his task, he would make very free use of the Black board so that the subject matter of his lectures may not fail to be distinctly impressed on their minds. I do not recollect a single occasion on which any student was inattentive or unruly in his lectures.

As the Warden of a Block of the College Hostel, he never attempted to be a strict disciplinarian. Breaking the restrictions of the evening "study hours", he used to take up positions on the Verandah facing the rooms of some of the boarders and go on talking and discoursing. Released from the rigours of hard study, the boarders loved to join the group. Had we not been so young and simple as we were then, we could have understood that all those interferences with the scheduled study hours for gossiping with the boarders were deliberately well planned to impart to them various instructions and information coolly calculated to improve their qualities of head and heart, characters and knowledge. He could also draw out from the boarders all the details of their hopes and disappointments which he could not have done had he been more formal and aloof. I could mention various incidents and episodes about him during his Wardenship of our Hostel. But that would take up more space than I intend to allot to this short memorandum. It would be enough to mention just one. In those days, a student could not get a certificate from the Warden of a Hostel without first obtaining one from the Superintendent. A boarder intending to apply for a post and having obtained a certificate from the Superintendent of the Hostel, went to Professor Parija and requested him to grant a certificate in his capacity as a Warden. The Superintendent's certificate stated that the boarder was very regular and obedient and during his residence in the Hostel for the last three years, had not broken a single Hostel-rule. On perusing

this certificate, Professor Parija refused to grant him a certificate. He told the young man that if the statement of the Superintendent was correct, he the boarder was utterly useless and good for nothing. Any normal young man of his age, if he had any life and spirit in him, was sure to have broken the Hostel rules at least once in a year. He also told him that he never thought well of spiritless and timid young men, whose normal conduct was abnormally passive for a youth of his age. Matters had to be explained to him before he could be persuaded to believe that the description of the young man by the Superintendent in his certificate was not due to the fault of the boarder who had caused sufficient troubles in the Hostel from time to time, and only after such assurance, a certificate was granted to the boarder.

My contacts with him outside the College affairs covered various matters concerning College students and Hostel boarders. They would be too numerous for adequate reference here. I would refer to only one matter which would be illustrative of many others. Professor Parija used to contribute Rs. 200/- to Rs. 300/- per month in those days to help poor and needy students. He told me once that he was tired of meeting students who came to him begging for financial assistance to defray the expenses of their student career. Apart from other considerations, begging was destructive of the dignity and personality of the young students not only during their educational career but even afterwards. He charged me with the task of building up an escape from all this in a scheme or organisation which would enable the needy students to earn their living by some work which would make them at least partly self-reliant. The result was an organisation which we got into being, named by me as "The Students' Labour Association", which continued to exist and function usefully for many years after my leaving the College, and may still be alive.

I have indicated above a few facts within my personal knowledge regarding Professor Parija. It is sufficient to indicate that his life and career has had great tonic effect on many of his students or wards who later in their life, filled many positions of responsibility with honour, dignity and distinction.

It is common knowledge that later on he served as the Principal of the Ravenshaw College and Vice-Chancellor of the Utkal University, which conferred on him a Doctorate of Science *honoris causa*. But the accounts thereof should more properly be left to others more competent to deal therewith except the two facts mentioned below :

He inspired us to organise two sessions of All Orissa Students' Conference one of which was presided over by the then famous Captain Petavel, Principal of a College for technical education in Calcutta and the other by Pandit Godavaris Misra whose political colour and creed embarrassed Professor Parija not a little with the then Governmental Authorities. He was with the students always.

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Dr. Parija

Eight Decades of Erudition and Five Decades of Social Service

Dr. G. C. Pattanayak
Bhubaneswar

THE Vedas envisaged every Person seeing one hundred autumns पश्याम शरद: शतम् (*Paśyama Saradah Satam*). The Bibical life span of man was put at 70 years—three scores and ten. An old Oriya saying put it at 60 years in Kalijuga କଳିଷଠା ଷାଠିଏ (*Kalisatha Shathiye*)

We are fortunate that Dr. P. K. Parija is now heading towards the fulfilment of the Vedic aspiration.

Once some of us were lounging after a Committee meeting and casually discussing life span. Dr. Parija-who was the Chairman of the meeting, smilingly told us that he had already reached the Railway Platform and just waiting for his train of departure for the next world. Twenty years have since passed. Many of his colleagues, contemporaries and students have since reached the platform and some of them have managed to board the train of departure. Dr. Parija however is still waiting waving and managing at the same time to use the platform as his Banaprasthasrama and possibly also the fourth stage the chaturthasrama — Sanyáśa with progressive renunciation of personal self, family self, serving the community self and finally trying to renounce everything for the ultimate realisation of the one Absolute Reality सच्चिदेकं ब्रह्म (*Sachchidekam Brahma*)

I have not had the Privilege of being his student as most of my contemporaries in Orissa are. My first recollection about him was an occasion 1916 when I joined a group of students of the Khurda High School in reading and discussing the contents of a letter from Shri Pranakrushna Parija written from London published in the 'Asha' of Berhampur(Ganjam). The subject was the cremation and funeral with Gitapatha following the tragic death of Mr. Satpathy returning home after being called to the Bar, his ship having been torpedoed by a German U. Boat right in the English Channel. My first direct contact with Professor Parija occurred in 1925 at Patna as an examinee in Biology at the First M.B.,B.S. examination of the then 6-year Medical degree course. My close and prolonged association with Dr. Parija, however, started from 1948 onwards with Utkal University Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council, Paribhasa Committee and Sub-committees and the Oriya Jnanakosh Advisory Committee.

From what I have gathered from my occasional Medical attendance on his family and frequent social contacts and closure personal association with his public life, I have been struck in common with many others by his amiability, sweet reasonableness, high sense of duly dignity and yet without bullying, fang-

ing, ragging and bragging. He has all along been acknowledged by his seniors and contemporaries as a serious, sincere, hard-working student acquiring scholarships, distinctions throughout his career as a student quoting very often the Oriya proverb : ତୁଳସୀ ଦୁଇ ପତ୍ରରୁ ବାସେ (*Tulasi Dui Patraru Base*). His students acknowledged him as a sincere convincing teacher, later his colleagues have seen him as a far-seeing educationist and able administrator. As a chairman of meetings he has been known for his ready wit, quick decision and successfully controlling tumultous twists in the controversial debates,

A Disciple's Tribute

Shyam Sundar Misra
Member
The Servants of India Society, Cuttack

DR. PARIJA'S is a name to conjure with. A Scientist and an educationist of international reputation, Dr. Parija is nevertheless a very simple and affectionate man. I had the privilege of being an inmate of the west hostel of the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, from 1929 to 1931 when Dr. Parija was the warden of the same hostel. Almost a young man at the time, at the peak of his energy, Dr. Parija's familiar figure was to be seen in all the gatherings of the students whether at the College or at the Hostel. He took keen interest in the all-round development of the inmates of the West Hostel and used to devote most of his evenings to giving them an idea of the British type of education and their way of life. I personally remember, I learnt many things about Parliamentary procedure from the way Dr. Parija conducted the meetings of the students over which he presided. Being one of the most popular figures of the staff of the Ravenshaw College at the time Dr. Parija was closely associated with the All-Orissa students movement. I remember an occasion when the All-Orissa Students Conference was held at Berhampur (Ganjam) under the Presidentship of late Dr. C. R. Reddy who was then a Congress leader and prominent member of the Madras Legislative Council. Dr. Parija was present in that Conference together with many important public men of Orissa. Late C. R. Reddy was overconfident of his eminence as a legislator and wanted others to recognize it. He wanted to know from some of the legislators of Orissa about the strength of the non-official members of the Bihar and Orissa Council. None of them could give him the correct figure. Dr. Parija volunteered an answer to the question and gave Dr. Reddy the correct figure of the strength of the non-official members of the Bihar and Orissa Council. That silenced Dr. Reddy for some time. But he was really irrepressible. He started the thesis that education created only a zeal in the students' mind. Dr. Parija said that in addition to zeal it also created a will. Dr. Reddy enquired from Dr. Parija as to how he could know that. Was he a Biologist ? Dr. Parija replied that he was a student of a branch of Biology *viz.*, Botany. This is how the unassuming educationist of Orissa almost silenced the great late C. R. Reddy and won his admiration. Again long before the Universities of Orissa came into existence, in the year 1936 when Orissa was created a separate Province, I remember Prof. Parija speaking about the advantages of a teaching University to a packed gathering in the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall of Berhampur where the elite of the town had gathered to listen to him about the relative advantages of both the affiliating type and the teaching type of Universities. Thus though primarily a botanist, Parija had a wide range of interest. He was, for a long time, the President of the "Utkal Sahitya Samaj" at Cuttack, the premier organisation of the literary men of Orissa. I was myself a student of Economics and Political science with which from all outward appearances Parija had nothing in common. But so great was his interest in the development of the career of his wards, that he became primarily responsible for my joining the Servants of India Society as a life member.

It is he who told me about the details of the working of the Servants of India Society when I had no knowledge about that Organisation. He wrote about me to the then President of the Society, late G. K. Devedhar whose colleague he was in the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Fortunately for me, I was accepted as a life member by the Council of the Society. After I joined the Society, Prof. Parija kept himself in frequent touch with me. I used to meet him in many places including Delhi, Bombay and Poona. He had a circle of friends in many of the big cities of our Country. I could get myself introduced to many big people of India by telling them that I was a ward of Prof. Parija. The late Prof. D. R. Gadgil, the well-known economist, who was some years junior to Dr. Parija in Cambridge told me once that in Cambridge Parija was known as a 'Big Gun'. Those who know Prof. Gadgil well know also how difficult it is to get a word of praise from him. Not only he, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in his published correspondence to his elder brother late Sarat Chandra Bose pays a tribute to Dr. Parija for what he had done in Cambridge. That Dr. Parija could become the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University clearly shows that he had attracted the admiring eyes of the late Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. His remaining the Vice-Chancellor of the Utkal University for a long time certainly did much to raise the Utkal University in the esteem of the other Universities of India. Quite in keeping with his manifold interest, Dr. Parija ran as a candidate for the Orissa Assembly election and was elected to the Assembly as an independent candidate defeating a Veteran Congress man of the time. It was a sight to see in the Orissa Assembly the three eminent scholars of Orissa *viz.*, Pandit Nilkanth Das, Pandit Godavarish Mishra and Dr. Parija making their valuable contributions to the discussions in the Orissa Assembly. I had the experience of coming in close touch with Dr. Parija when he was a Legislator. It was a surprise to me how a life-long educationist had adapted himself to the rough and tumble of the career of a legislator. From many points of view, Dr. Parija is a shinning light of Orissa. May he live long shedding the lustre of his illumining personality to give hope and inspiration to the younger generations of Orissa.

A Rare Personality

Dr. S. Misra
Professorpara, Cuttack-3

ON the 85th birthday of Dr. Pranakrushna Parija, I pay my humble respects to this illustrious son of mother India.

To generations of students, Professor Parija has been an ideal. For a long number of years, he devoted the best part of his life to teach and work in the Ravenshaw College and successive generations were inspired not only by his scholarship, but by his character, devotion, mode of life and affection to students. And whenever two or more Ravenshawians, spread in different places and positions, had any opportunity to meet, their fond memories of College life were enlivened by emotional references to Parija and their association with him.

Dr. Parija has been a rare blend of Western and Indian values and disciplines. He went to England before the First World War and remained in Cambridge for seven years. The number of persons going to England for study in those days was exceedingly small and most of these few who were educated in England were highly westernised and formed a separate community on their return to India. Dr. Parija was one of the few exceptions. He never touched tobacco or alcohol, seldom went to a European Club and maintained the life style of a Puritan. Even in his advanced age, when he was Vice-Chancellor, he used to get up early in the morning, make his own tea, brush his shoes and be in the chair of his residential office, dressed for the day, at 7-00 a.m.

Late Narasingo Padhi, Principal, Khallikote College, narrated a curious story a number of times. He was a teacher in a high school, when Dr. Parija returned from England and joined the Indian Educational Service. It was summer vacation and Dr. Parija was at Gopalpur. Padhi was curious to see how an I.E.S. man looks like and went to see Dr. Parija there. He was surprised to see this I.E.S. man looking like any ordinary gentleman and Padhi spoke as much to him when he met him there. Dr. Parija never had any pretensions. Dr. Parija is a storehouse of adages, fables and pithy sayings from our ancient lore and Oriya classics. He makes appropriate references and quotations in his speeches, observations and normal conversations. He has a disregard for blind rituals, but he holds in esteem the wisdom embodied in our traditions and celebrated writings.

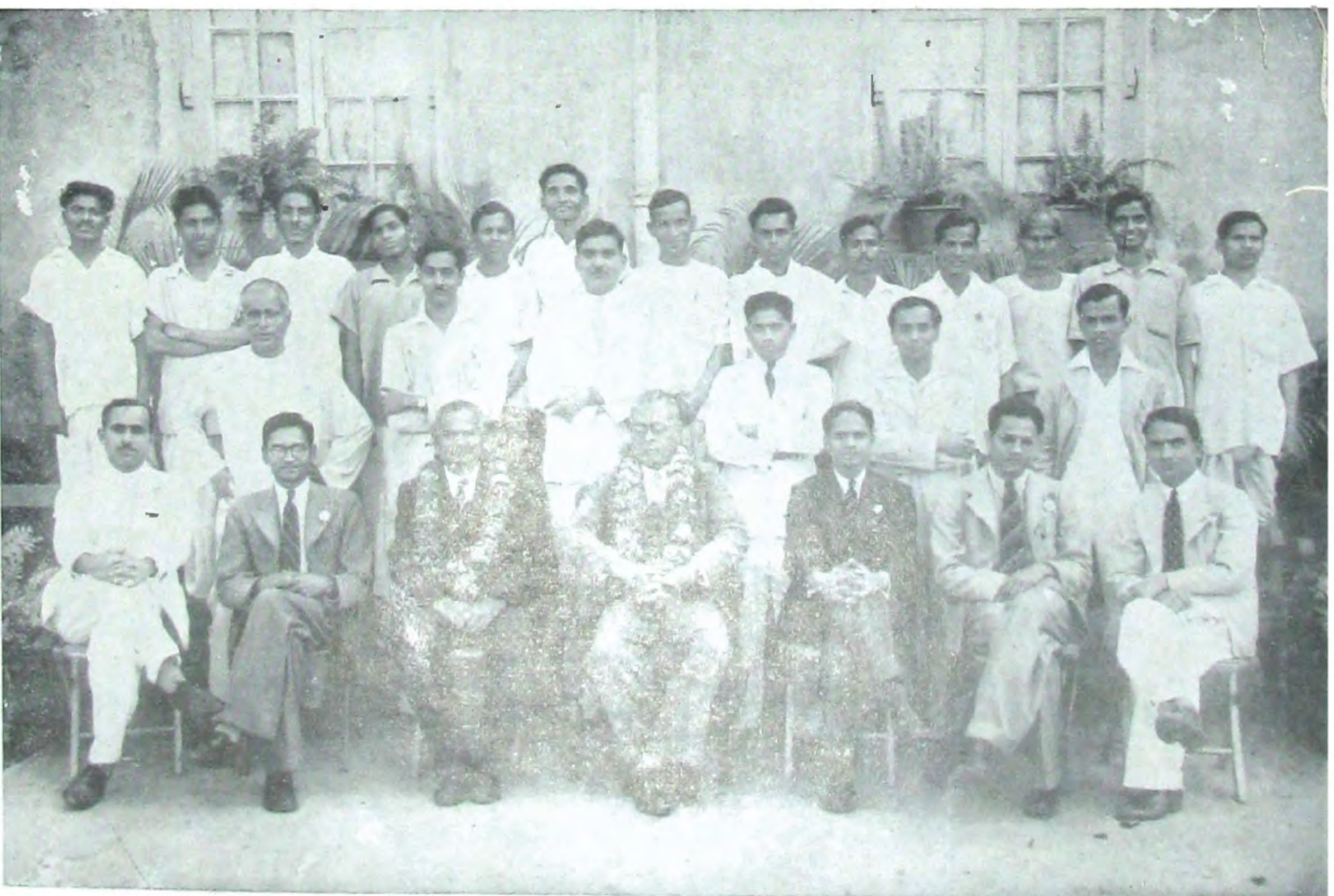
In those days, students on their arrival in England were given certain instructions in common conduct. One of them was—"Rain or snow is no excuse for cancelling any appointment." To Dr. Parija, any engagement accepted was sacred. His punctuality was a national theme. He would arrive punctitiously to the minute. This is an essential element of discipline. An incident was once narrated by him. It was summer vacation. He was Principal in the Ravenshaw College. He was asked by a superior authority to come to his residence at 7 in the morning. He was there exactly at seven. No one was to be seen. He waited. After half an hour, the superior authority came out and

found Dr. Parija. 'Parija Saheb, you are here so early ! I shall be ready in a few minutes.' Dr. Parija replied 'No trouble, I am waiting'. Then in course of conversation, he said, "An English man invited a French friend to dinner at 7 in the evening. The Frenchman came at 8 and found the dinner over. Then he remarked —The wretched Englishman ! when he says seven, he also means seven !"

Puntuality has been a part of his life and even today if he is invited to a meeting, he is there right in time to find nobody else there ! You would never have any occasion to complain of lack of time, if punctuality becomes a normal discipline of life.

In all the universities all over the country, he has been known and admired. Whenever I had the occasion to visit any of these universities, from the elders I invariably received a query 'How is Dr. Parija ?' I had the privilege of studying under him, staying under his wardenship, working under him and working with him. To be associated with him is a rare privilege. His is a rare personality.

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Professor Parija with staff and students of Botany Department. R. College, Cuttack



Professor Parija with Staff of Ravenshaw College, Cuttack



Professor Parija, as I know

Dr. B. Samantarai
Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar.

" IT was about 1920. I opened a new issue of the 'Utkal Sahitya,'a monthly literary journal, edited and published by the late Viswanath Kar, an eminent literateur and orator in Oriya. I came across a reproduction of a photograph wherein were seated Prof Pranakrushna Parija and the late Bhubananand Das and reclining on their chairs were the late Shyama Chandra Tripathy and the late Satchidananda Ray. There was a note congratulating the four Oriya young men on their success in England. I was then a student of the very low class of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, which was housed in the building now occupied by the City Hospital. On seeing the picture I was very much thrilled. Little did I know then that professor Parija had already made a name as a research scientist and the role the four had to play in the life of Orissa. Little did I know also that I would have ever any opportunity to work with all of them excepting Sri B. Das, who was an Engineer and later became M. L. A. (Central) and M.P.

Parija on his return to India in 1921 joined the Ravenshaw College as the Professor of Botany in the Indian Educational Service. In his honour dinners were arranged by the teachers of the Ravenshaw College. I had the privilege of attending the functions with my uncle, late Kruttibas Samantarai, the then Professor of English. I was introduced to Prof. Parija by Professor S. C. Tripathy who had known me previously when he was the Headmaster of the Collegiate High School for some time before he came to the College as Professor of Physics. A dinner was even arranged in the honour of Professor Parija at our residence to which the staff residing in the Campus were invited. In the gathering Sri B. Das was also present with his twin brother the late Swami Bichitrananda Das. There again I got an opportunity to talk to Professor Parija. The tall stature, the shining eyes clearly visible through the glass which he was wearing and the scholarly stoop of Professor Parija made a great impression on him. He was wearing a moustache at that time. This is how I came to know Professor Parija.

Afterwards I have had unique privilege of knowing Professor Parija in various capacities and working with him. I am briefly narrating these experiences of mine.

Professor

I was a student of Professor Parija for the period 1928-32. We, the students, always were eagerly waiting for his lectures and practical

class, where the teaching, the mode of instruction were to our heart's content. We not only learned the subject but very many things, listening to appropriate stories anecdotes and proverbs. He always liked a smiling face and tried to enquire the cause of difficulty from those who were morose and unhappy and tried to help them to get over their difficulties. Due to his efforts honours in Science subjects viz. Botany, Chemistry and Physics, was opened in the Ravenshaw College in 1930. I happened to be one of his first honours students. There was no honours in any of the Colleges in the Province of Bihar and Orissa i.e. Patna University. Our greatest pleasure was to accompany him in excursions. Wherever he went, he was so highly respected and held in such high esteem that people used to take great care of us, the students. We not only learnt Plant life in the field, we learnt a lot about other Sciences, other, countries, other universities abroad, our ancient culture and heard innumerable stories, his innocent jokes of humour. In the college he was the Warden of the West hostel and the hostels of those days of Ravenshaw college were well organised, well furnished and a pleasant place to stay, relax and study.

In 1928, he had returned from England after his second visit. During the second time he was in Cambridge, he gave a final shape to his researches, which much later was published by the Cambridge University in the form of a book containing nine chapters. Out of these, three chapters in 1928, were published in the Proceedings of Royal Society of London, which was one of the outstanding scientific Journals of the world. It was for the first time the name of Ravenshaw College appeared in a foreign Scientific Journal below the name of Prof. Parija. When these three papers were published, all the books on Plant Physiology or Plant Respiration discussed the importance of the work in detail and his name along with his guru F. F. Blackman, F. R. S. spread far and wide amongst Plant Scientists and Prof. Parija was elected as the President of the Botany Section of the Indian Science Congress. The work remains, even now a landmark in Plant Respiration.

During his Professorship the successive Principals were all English men viz. H. Lampaj, W. O. Smith, Q. O Whitlock, T. C. Orgill, W. V. Duke. All of them has special regard for him and his words carried weight. He was the member of the Governing Body, member of free studentship committee and Social Service Guild and tried to help the needy and deserving students. His memory for remembering the names and the whereabouts of most of the students was phenomenal. During these days periodically he used to deliver lecturers on different aspects of science for layman during evening hours. He was a fellow and a syndic of the Patna University, travelled far and wide in India to attend conferences and examine Post-Graduate candidates.

When I graduated with honours in Botany with his recommendation I joined the Post-Graduate Department of Botany of the Allahabad University. It was only there, I fully realised what an eminent scientist he was and what outstanding importance his researches held.

Principal

He officiated as Principal of the College in 1936 during the absence of the Principal S. C. Tripathy in England. His regular assumption of Principalship was in 1938, when I joined as a lecturer in Botany though since 1936, I worked under him as a Research Scholar and a part-time lecturer. As a Principal, he brought about an all-round improvement of the College. Standard of teaching, standard of games and sports, extracurricular activities all improved and above all he enforced strict discipline. During his time research was encouraged and importance was given extra moral lectures by the members of the staff. During his period

very eminent people were invited to deliver extensive lecturers. I remember vividly the one delivered by the late Professor Birbal Sahani, one of his contemporaries in Cambridge and Professor C. V. Raman; a Nobel lauriate, his great friend. The College commemoration days were being addressed by eminent persons. I remember the late Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, a great orator, a great patriot and the nightingale of India remarked on such an occasion when she was the chief guest as 'Your Principal is suffering from lumbago, a richman's disease. At that time Principal Parija in spite of his painful lumbago was present with his guest and enjoying her remarks.

As a Principal the way he was tackling students' problem which by then had grow nsnfficiently unmanageable, was really praise worthy. His aim hnd been a disciplined student population devoted to the work they had undertaken, taking advantage of all the facilities that the College and its staff could afford.

During his principalship I was appointed by him as the Superintendent of the East Hostel after Wardenship was abolished. I fully remember the help and guidance we received from him during those of blackouts, food shortages, shortage of residential accommodation for students due to the Second World War. During the period of war the Japanes bombed a troupship near Kujang and the soldiers were brought to the Ravenshaw College, where they were accommodated and looked after under his sympathetic care.

For students benefit he was devising various methods. One such system was the tutorial one, by which each of the members of staff was given the charge of 16 students. The member of the staff was to contact the students under his charge, to visit their place of residence, enquire about their difficulties and try to remedy them as far as he could, so that the students could take advantage of the facilities offered by the institution. Such help was of immense help to students in procuring their ration, books, stationery, kerosene and other items which were not easily available during the period of war. I understand the tutorial system still continues in the College.

Vice-Chancellor

On the establishment of the Utkal University he was appointed as its first Vice-Chancellor, while continuing as the Principal of the College. In 1945, he left for the Directorship of Agriculture, Government of Orissa, still continuing as the Vice-Chancellor. During a short period he was out of the Vice-Chancellorship when he walked as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the Banarus Hindu University where the late Dr. Radhakrishnan, our ex-president of India, was the Vice-Chancellor. On his return to Orissa he became at first the Pro-Chancellor, and subsequently again the Vice-Chancellor, which position he held continuously for a period of ten years.

During the early years of the University he managed the affairs ably and laid the foundation of the University in such a way that it changed its character from an affiliating one to both affiliating and teaching. It was during his time the University was shifted to its present site at Vani Vihar, where different buildings for office and teaching Departments sprang up. Trees were planted, roads were laid and residential quarters were provided for the teaching as well as office staff. During his term the College of Engineering at Burla was established by the University.

One who has ever seen him presiding over a meeting of the Academic Council, the Senate or the Syndicate he could not have missed observing his knowledge about details, stress a precision of language and facts and above all the management of the meeting under strict discipline. One of his critics of Banaras Hindu University once confided in me saying than the

knew no one else other than Prof. Parija who could control a meeting smoothly and efficiently. This we all realised in the different meetings of the University or elsewhere. He was one of the educationists who advocated for three-year degree course and introduction of internal assessment in the examination system. Though internal assessment was discontinued after a short trial, it has now become a regular feature. He was instrumental in introducing periodic general inspection by experts of the different institutions affiliated to the University to ascertain their proper functioning.

Scientist :

Professor Parija is first a scientist and then something else. Some aspects of his scientific achievement has already been referred to. With heavy load of teaching and administration and other extracurricular activity in a Government College, attention to research is not possible however brilliant one might be. Even then Prof. Parija always clung to research. His contribution to Botany have been dealt with separately.

Legislator :

Professor Parija was an elected independent member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly. With his vast experience in different fields, especially education, agriculture and science, his concrete suggestions for constructive action were appreciated by the ruling party.

Literateur :

Though as a student he wrote stories and poems for children, he on his return to India published a series of articles on life in Cambridge in the Utkal Sahitya, a journal of high standing. It was Professor Parija who first published popular scientific articles in Oriya Journals like Utkal Sahitya and later 'Nababharat' edited by the late Pandit Nilakantha Das. His scientific articles in Oriya for children adorned the pages of 'Panchamruta', a juvenile journal edited by the late Chintamani Acharya.

Organiser :

For the first time Indian Science Congress was organised in Orissa by the Utkal University in the Ravenshaw College Campus in 1962 under his guidance, when he was the Vice-Chancellor. It took several days to the University to make suitable preparations for big gathering which our late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru attended. I happened to be one of the local Secretaries. I remember how indefatigably Professor Parija worked with us day and night like a young man with the heavy push and drive. The session was a great success. The Ravenshaw College Campus with its buildings painted and premises cleaned gave a picturesque appearance and all the delegates including those from abroad were impressed with the function. The session was opened with 'Bharatgitika' written in Sanskrit by the late Oriya Poet Radhanath Rai, sung by a group of young ladies and most of the Indian delegates who heard that enquired about the writer and many expressed that had this poem been known earlier to the authorities, probably this would have been the National Anthem of India. All these are due to the organisational talent of Prof. Parija.

He, as already mentioned, was member of very many important committees like the Man-power Committee, the Languages Committee etc. The one with which I was connected as a member and he as the Chairman of the Committee was the State Universities Committee set up by the Government of Orissa to study and report the feasibility of establishment of new universities and their pattern and whether there is any necessity of a Technical University. This Committee under his chairmanship recommended establishing a Residential University at Sambalpur for which it was ripe, a Residential University at Berhampur in due course and a

federal type of University at Cuttack with Ravenshaw College as the nucleus. Utkal University was to remain as the affiliating type for the whole State. The need for a technical University was not felt at that time.

When in 1967 there was a great clamour for establishment of University at Sambalpur and Berhampur, I was the D. P. I. had to take shelter under this report and Government established those two universities, taking part action only on this report.

I have narrated a few of my experiences. I purposely omit a lot others apphrending the account will be too lengthy and uninteresting. One this that needs mention is, his wide circle of friends through out the world and India and most of the time his house is full with some guest or other from other parts of India. He was travelled widely in India and abroad. His rich experience in life needs complete recording for the generations to come.

While giving my experiences about Professor Parija, I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the kind hospitality, the generous behaviour of Mrs. Parija, who is responsible for the great achievements of Professor Parija to a great extent. To the younger generation who lived in the College Compound when Dr. Parija was the Principal, Mrs. Parija was almost a mother to all. Everybody was happy in her company. I personally feel that I do not remember any important incident in my life where I have not received their blessings.

On this occasion of the 85th year celebration of Professor Parija, I pray that they may live with us for many more years in good health and good cheer and serve as a source of strength and inspirations to successive generations.

My Homage to Dr. Parija

Shri J. Das
Vice-Chancellor, O.U.A.T.
Bhubaneswar

PADMABHUSAN Dr. Pranakrushna Parija now in his 85th year is a celebrated natural scientist in the international sphere and a well known figure to every household in Orissa. The elite of Orissa who are often obsessed with an inferiority complex have not given him the honour and pride of place deserving him. He is not only a great scientist but a great teacher and educationist who believes in sharing of knowledge, learning and scholarship. He is a great patriot and having the welfare of Oriyas and upliftment of Orissa at heart, has always striven and worked for the same. Born in a poor family, he is ever sympathetic and kind to the poor and meritorious students and gives financial help ungrudgingly to such students stuwhenever needed. He gives a helping hand to anybody who comes for help of any kind.

He was my teacher in Botany for four years from 1930 to 1934 and was also my warden in the West Hostel during that period. At the time of my admission to the Ravenshaw College that being the only College in Orissa Division then in the province of Bihar and Orissa, I received a set of questionnaire along with the prospectus, etc. to answer them and submit it to Dr. Parija or Shri S. C. Tripathy, the then Professor of Physics for advice, if any, regarding the educational career to be followed. I ofcourse submitted my answers to the questionnaire to Dr. Parija and got his advice but cannot say whether I followed them. His loving care for the students was unique and he never failed to attend to their grievances and personal matters in settling them. Though a strict disciplinarian, he was very liberal in his dealings with them and excused or ignored minor lapses on their part. Punctuality is very dear to his heart and he never excuses anyone who is not punctual in attending to his duties, meetings and functions. As warden, he was making a daily round to the hostel to look into hostel affairs and hear grievances of students, if any. He was so correct to the time that we were correcting our watches at times. His towering personality with a reserve exterior is looked upon with awe, reverence and fear by the new under-graduates but once a student meets him and talks with him, the latter is completely disarmed of his awe and misapprehensions and feels very much at home, thereby gaining confidence to be very frank and open in his discussions and in putting forward his views and problems for redress. He was taking great interest in explaining phenomena of nature and scientific experiments to the students in such a lucid and impressive manner that it can be understood by any layman and it remains permanently impressed in their minds. During Botanical excursions, he was often accompanying students, explaining every peculiarity in plants and their habitats and ecological adaptations, etc. and to me it was a great experience in acquiring more practical knowledge than in the class rooms. In 1934 I remember the experience I had in a Botanical excursion to Pareshnath Hills in Bihar. He took great care of the students during the journey

and in making our stay as comfortable as possible. He also walked to the summit of Pareshnath Hills with us explaining all along the way the flora and new types of plants we came across in a jovial and cheerful disposition although it was greatly tiresome due to climbing up and down. We started at 4 a.m. in the morning and returned to our place of halt in the evening. He regarded the students as his colleagues and friends in such excursions. He was full of humour and often cut jokes with students to make them feel at home and the discussions lively and relieve boredom. Every visit to him and every discussion with him is an enriching experience.

I had personal experience of his great intellectual power, unsurpassed enthusiasm in explaining the scientific problems to his students and simplicity of manners not only as a honours student in Botany but as a Research (Physiological) Assistant for more than a year after my Post-graduation to conduct research and make physiological studies on "Drought and Flood resistant varieties of paddy" and on "Dormancy in paddy seeds" and "Vernalization." This scheme was sanctioned by the I.C. A.R. (then known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research) to be taken up under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Parija in the Botany Department of the Ravenshaw College. He spared no pains to look into every detail of procedure and conducting of experiments and analysis of results as well as in pointing out the defects and giving suitable guidelines to rectify them. I had to leave the post after about a year to join the Orissa Subordinate Administrative Service and was faced with some difficulty to be relieved from the post, but for his kind and sympathetic intervention the difficulty was removed.

He commanded much more respect and regard from the scientists of other States and Universities than in Orissa. During my Post-graduate studies in Calcutta University, I was receiving a good deal of consideration from the students and teachers of that University because I happened to be a student of Dr. Parija. When, I answered a question which others could not the teachers applauded me with the remark that "he is a student of Dr. Parija" meaning thereby that I had no personal merit in providing the answer but it was due to the training and teaching imparted by Dr. Parija. I was sometime introduced to others as a 'student of Dr. Parija' and not by my personal name. This shows the great esteem with which he was held by the scientists and educationists of other parts of India.

Another instance of his paternal love and care for the students may be cited here, of which I had the personal experience. A few days before the B.Sc. Final examination, I fell seriously ill due to an internal abcess in my abdomen. The best medical facilities available was arranged for me and I was operated in the hostel sick room and all necessary arrangements were made for me to sit for the examination in the sick room, otherwise I would have lost one year if all these steps were not taken under the instructions and personal supervision of Dr. Parija. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Parija which I will not be able to repay in my life time.

He is a rare combination of great intellectual power, wisdom, simplicity of manner, love and discipline, whose ideals and ways of life will be ever cherished and emulated.

Dr. Pranakrushna Parija A Profile

Dr. Shreeram Chandra Das
Cuttack

I had in my life several points of contact with Dr. Parija. He hails from the village Ichhapur in the Balikuda Police Station of Cuttack district and my birth-place Sukida Biranarasinghpur situated at a distance of eight miles from his village is within the same police Station. He had his early education in Balikuda Middle English School wherefrom I had passed my M.E. School examination and both of us happen to be the students of Shri Nanda Kishore Sen Gupta of Kuanpal, the Head Pandit of the School. Pandit Sen Gupta used to brag in our class pointing out to the cane in his hand, "This is the cane which made Pranakrushna a man; if this cane touches your body, you will also become men". Dr. Parija was the officiating Principal of Ravenshaw College, Cuttack when I got myself admitted into the College in the first year arts class in 1936 and it is on his advice that I had to opt for Arts though I stood first in the Matriculation Examination of the Patna University in that year, as good students hardly opted for science combination at that time. Or else instead of teaching "controversial" economics and/or political science, I would have taught either inert Physics or Chemistry or sentient Botany or Zoology. When I joined Ravenshaw College as a teacher in 1945, I missed Dr. Parija as my Principal by one year but later in life, I had occasion to serve under him from 1963 till 1966 when I became the Professor of Political Science when he was the Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University.

I had heard about Parija from his relatives in my village right from my childhood and set him up as the model of my life. He was popularly known as Parija Saheb. I first saw him in 1931 when I was in class VII and he had gone to the school to see his old teacher Sengupta on his way to the weekly Balikuda market. All of us gathered round him to see "Parija Saheb" and hear a word or two from his lips. With due respect and reverence. we offered him a chair to sit but he handed it over to Sengupta and instead, sat on a high desk. We heard that he was getting a salary of Rs. 1,250 a month when we could manage with less than a Rupee per month, so we had an impression that when we were eating rice, dal and curry, he must be eating gold, silver and diamond. Being pressed by other students, I asked him, "Sir, do you get a salary of Rs. 1,250 per month ?" When he answered in the affirmative, I asked, "Do you eat gold and silver ?" He laughed hilariously and said, "Whatever be the income of a person, he cannot manage without eating rice, dal and curry like you." This was our first lesson in biology from the most famous Professor of Botany in India.

When I was in Class X in 1934, Mr. George Earnest Facus, the Director of Public Instruction, Bihar and Orissa visited our school and at the instance of the Head Master, inspected our class. He asked every one, "What is your ambition in life ?" My answer was, "To be another Parija Saheb". He asked, "How do you know Parija ?" With pride in my eyes, I said, "He comes from near my village." He had probably reported it to Parija and when Dr. Parija came to preside over our prize distribution ceremony, he enquired of me. He

had then a reputation as a benefactor of poor and meritorious students for which I a poor student approached him with an application for help but by mistake, I wrote 'Proffessor' Parija. In reply, he said that when Professor will lose the additional 'f' from his name, necessary help will be rendered. I was disappointed at the moment but when I approached him as my Principal after admission to the First Year Class, I was surprised to find that he had already purchased a Chambers's Twentieth Century Dictionary for me and presented it as a token of his appreciation of my creditable achievements in the Matriculation Examination. I still cherish that Dictionary though during the last forty years, it has been bound twice to keep together the flying leaves.

In modern times, almost every Professor is going out to other Universities for one assignment or the other as there are more than one hundred universities at present but in 1936, there were not more than twenty Universities in India including Burma and Ceylon and Professor Parija was very frequently on the move. Students were acquinted with his name and fame from their school days and when they came to the college, it was their ambition to have a look at this great man but he was hardly to be seen in the Botany Laboratory. After I was elected Assistant Secretary of the Literary and Debating Society of the College (there was no College Union before 1938), I arranged a debate in which Parija had been invited to preside so that all students could see him. He is punctual to the second and the meeting was to begin at 1.45 p.m. At 1.30, the Common Room, the venue of the meeting was almost empty and I was desperate about the appearance of the great man in such a thinly attended meeting. At about 1.40, I saw Parija slowly walking towards the Common-room and believe me, students who were waiting here and there to have a glimpse of him, came in huge numbers by the time he took the chair. Such was the magnetism of his personality at the time. It was unfortunate that after he became the Principal in 1938 by which time, the Indian Provinces had their first responsible cabinets, the students became boisterous and he had to face four mammoth strikes *viz.*, the hunger strike in the West Hostel, J. N. Banerjee quarters strike, examination boycott of 1940 and Quit India strike of 1942. Parija was such a stickler for stern discipline that on each occasion, it is the students who had to yield and not the authorities and even though the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries intervened on behalf of the students and held meetings on the Tennis-field criticising the authorities, the Principal threatened resignation and cooled down the ministerial ardour for false democratic values. In 1939, the entire college had to tender letters of written apology in order to be taken back to the rolls as the name of every one had been struck off on account of concerted absence for more than 72 hours. It is a truism that beloved teachers become contemptible once they assume disciplinary authority and democracy has so much politicised the students that they soon forget all the values of the past when aggrieved at present on insignificant issues concerning their petty self-interest. It appears as if "Gods that failed." This was true of Dr. Parija also.

Rigid punctuality was the greatest and the most admirable attribute of Parija's character. He was punctual to the very second. I have seen him coming to the Syndicate at 5.30 p.m. sharp and proceeding with the agenda without wasting a single minute in rambling talks, unlike some others with whom I had the opportunity of working who not only did not come to the meeting in time but also loved to wait for the absentees or waste valuable time in desultory talks. While I was a Reader in the Ravenshaw College, a meeting had been convened in the Physics Lecture Theatre at 6 p.m. and by the

scheduled time, only three persons including myself and the Principal were present. Dr. Parija was to preside. He came at 6 p.m. sharp and asked for the agenda of the meeting and when the Principal explained to him that he expected a good attendance by 6.30 p.m., Dr. Parija queitly walked away. It is said that the Education Minister in 1938 had convened a meeting at 8 a.m. in the Old Secretariat and he and the D.P.I. were to attend. He reached the venue at the appointed time and found the meeting room locked up. He patiently waited for others to arrive and the invitees assembled by 10 a.m. He quietly stood up and protested that as the meeting was to be held at 8 a.m. he came without his breakfast and he was not in a position to sit any longer. Saying this, he went back to his residence. This is comparable to what Utkal Gaurab Madhusudan Das had told the Raja of Keonjhar. The Raja was in distress and wanted to consult Mr. Das. An engagement had been fixed for 7 p.m. but the Raja Bahadur came at 7-30 p.m. When he entered the chamber of Mr. Das, the latter pointing at a wall clock in the room asked the Raja Bahadur, "What is the price of this wall clock ?" The Raja said, "About Rs. 30". Mr. Das said, "If a clock worth only Rs. 30 could not wait for the Raja Bahadur and went on its way to make 7-30 p.m., was Mr. Das so much less valuable that he could wait for the Raja for half an hour ?" The Raja felt ashamed of his conduct. Thus both Dr. Parija and Mr. Das knew that time was money and there was no sense in the term "Indian punctuality."

Parija was a born chairman of meetings. Most of us have seen him conducting meetings of the Senate, Syndicate and the Academic Council. There is no delay in the commencement of the proceedings and no scope for unnecessary and acrimonious discussions. Issues are clinched and decisions are recorded. Once he was narrating in a meeting of the Syndicate a story concerning himself and Sri Roma Prasad Mookerjee, ex-Judge of the Calcutta High Court and ex-Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University. In a meeting of the Inter-University Board of India, Parija as the President of the Board was on the chair and Shri Mookerjee was present. When an issue raised some controversy and there was acrimonious discussion, Parija asked Shri Mookerjee to sit down. He as a disciplined academician sat down. Later Sri Mookerjee told Dr. Parija, "As the President, you behave like a headmaster". Whereupon Dr. Parija said in reply," I am Parija in private and your friend.. I have great respect for you as a person. But as the presiding officer, it is my duty to conduct the proceedings and I do not recognise any face inside the meeting. This is the appropriate conduct of a Chairman for which many great men of Orissa have a grievance against him.

Parija is as much cultured as he is humorous. A number of Sanskrit slokas and Oriya folk-songs were at the tip of his tongue. In course of his numerous addresses from public platforms, these lines were handy to create humour. One can never forget the humorous speech delivered by him in 1938 on the occasion of the farewell to Dr. Parasuram Misra, Superintendent of the West Hostel on the eve of his departure for England for higher studies when he warned him against the coy British girls in the presence of his own son Sri Gatikrushna Misra, now a retired District and Sessions Judge. Acute tensions in the Senate and Academic Council meetings were eased by sly touches of humour from the lips of the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Parija had humble beginnings in a remote agrarian village of Cuttack district but what with the munificence of his well-meaning neighbours and his own genius, perseverance and diligence, he has attained a stature in the realm of science, scholarship and administration which has not so far been excelled. He

had also strayed into politics as a Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1952 till 1957 as the representative of our Balikuda constituency. He was loved and respected by the Government but as an independent, he could not be effective for which he lost all interest in parliamentary politics. In 1955, there was the Dalaighai disaster inundating three-fourth of the Sadar subdivision of Cuttack including his own constituency. In his anxiety to study the extent of devastation on the spot, he went to the scene at Dalaighai and in his nervousness, fell into the river. We and our students jumped in and picked him up and he was clad in a spare saree which Mrs. Parija had wisely carried with her. He was an embodiment of sincerity and efficiency and whatever he touched, he adorned. It is a fitting tribute to his contributions to the field of Botany that Ravenshaw College has named its post-graduate department of Botany as Parija Department and the Utkal University Department has named its Seminar as Parijatak, the name of his residence. The University authorities should think of installing a life-size statue of Parija in front of the Post-graduate Department of Botany to mark his long association with the University from 1943 till 1948 and again from 1955 till 1966 as our Vice-Chancellor.

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Dr. Parija — a recollection

Dr. Bidyadhar Misra
Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar

I come from a village which is only five miles distant from village Ichhapur, in the Balikuda P.S. of the Cuttack district where Dr. P. Parija was born. In our locality the life and work of Dr. Parija is still a legend. When we were primary school children, we heard from our elders, stories about Parija's early life and education, how after his primary education his family had no means to admit him in a Middle English School, how the Head Pandit of the Balikuda M. E. School accidenttally discovered the talent of the young boy and how through his assistance Parija could enter the School and shine in the School classes. We were told how for his great merit Parija received scholarships for higher studies throughout his student career and how after completion of his education for the Master's Degree in Science in the Presidency College, Calcutta, he was sent to Cambridge for highei education.

When we were in the primary school in the early twenties, my brother was reading in the Ravenshaw College in the I.Sc. Classes. By that time Dr. Parija had returned from England and joined the Ravenshaw College as a Professor under the Indian Educational Service. My brother being a student of Dr. Parija and being intimately known to him, used to talk often about him in our family and village—how Parija was giving monetary assistance to poor students and how he was a peiennial source of sympathy and solace to students in need and distress and how inspite of his foreign education, he was leading a simple and clean life, worthy of a great teacher of our country.

When I joined the Ravenshaw College as a student in July, 1936, Parija was acting as the Principal of the College as Shri S. C. Tripathy had gone on leave for some months to England to attend the coronation functions of Edward VIII. During the period when we were students of the Intermediate Classes, he was the Warden of the West Hostel. In those days we were always afraid to meet him, as he was such a senior teacher and so great. But in our B.A. Classes when he was the Principal of the Ravenshaw College, I have met him many times for advice when I was in difficulty not only as the Principal of the College where I studied but as a man who very closely knew me and my family. On all such occasions, I have received help and sympathies from him as a real well wisher. Though he was a very high Officer of the Indian Educational Service and O.B.E. of the British Government, he still maintained contact with the village people in our locality and helped them in their need. My impression was that they really admired and liked him. The impression proved correct when he was elected as the Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly with overwhelming majority from the Balikuda constituency without much effort. The welfare of the constituency was at his heart and the people had confidence in him.

In 1956, Parija came back to educational administration in Orissa, the real field of his

interest, as the Vice-Chancellor of the Utkal University. From 1956 to 1966, the period in which he was the Vice-Chancellor, I came in intimate contact with him as a teacher and Professor of the University. This was the period of the Second and Third Five Year Plans. In this period, the U. G. C. was born and took its shape. Parija was an intimate friend of Sri C. D. Desmukh, then Chairman of the U.G.C With the co-operation of the U.G.C. and the State Government, the University Campus at Vani Vihar was selected and construction work began. Eleven Post-Graduate Teaching Departments of the University were started.

The University head quarters was shifted to Vani Vihar in July, 1962. By that time the Vice-Chancellor's quarters was not built. Dr. Parija decided to stay in one of the Professor's quarters to expedite the development of the Campus and to share the joys and sorrows of campus life. To my embarassment, the consecutive quarters to the Vice-Chancellor's house was allotted to me. I was afraid that my noisy children might disturb the peace of the Vice-Chancellor and as by age and position, there was a great distance between me and the Vice-Chancellor, too frequent meeting with him as the next door neighbour might be embarassing. But within a few days, the fear vanished. Mrs. Parija with her affectionate, motherly nature liked my wife and children. In a short time my children and the children of other colleagues in the Professors' quarters instead of becoming a disturbing nuisance became a source of joy to Mrs. Parija. Campus life in early days was not adequately organised. There were no shopping centres nearby, medical facilities were not available and there were frequent break-down of water supply to the campus. The Vice-Chancellor suffered all the difficulties in common with us. I remember, on one occasion, the Vice-Chancellor brought in his own car a big tin of kerosene, a scarce commodity at the time from Cuttack for use in my family. To my embarassment, I understood that my wife had requested Mrs. Parija to bring it from Cuttack. I was annoyed with my wife for taking such liberty with Mrs. Parija but she felt quite easy because the Parijas were so good and she was so familiar with Mrs. Parija. On another occasion when the Professor of Statistics my next door neighbour on the other side fell suddenly ill, at about 11 p.m. one night, we had to tap the door of the Vice-Chancellor for lending his car for taking the patient to the hospital at Cuttack. The Vice-Chancellor promptly asked his driver to take the ailing Professor to the hospital at Cuttack and we went to the hospital in ten minutes, the transport cost being borne personally by the Vice-Chancellor. Many such events could be cited. It is sufficient to say that during those years we felt quite happy and easy to live with Dr. Parija as a next door neighbour.

For the last ten years Parija has left the Campus and is living at Cuttack. Occasionally we have visited his house. But we always feel as if a close friend, relative and well wisher lives there. The day on which Dr. Parija left the Campus he circulated a small note among all employees of the University requesting them to forget if he has inadvertently committed a mistake or done any harm to anybody. I still preserve that note and remember the emotion with which he wrote it.

Parija has been a great man of our society. He has distinguished himself in many fields and has been honoured as a great scientist, educationist, administrator, legislator and wiseman. But we have always taken pride that this great man has come from our locality and we had the good fortune of living so close to him.

Dr. Parija — Scientist and Humanitarian

Dr. S. Sahu
Registrar, Utkal University

LONG ago in the forties, as a student of the University at Waltair, I had occasion once to tune in to a radio broadcast wherein I could lisen to the live voice of Rabindranath Tagore. I had read some of his books. I had seen his majestic picture with his flowing beard and long robes on various occasions and I had expected a sombre, masculine and resounding voice—the sort of voice you listen in a film when God speaks from behind the clouds. But what came out of the radio was a sweet feminine voice.

In the same way, I heard much about Dr. Parija. As a student, I missed the privilege of knowing him as my Principal, as I mostly wandered in the south. By the time I joined as a teacher in the Sambalpur College, he was already the first Vice-Chancellor of the Utkal University. Already amongst us, the young lecturers, he was a legendary figure. His work in Cambridge was looked upon by us as something outstanding (though most of us did not know what exactly was the work done by him.) His sense of duty and his penchant for discipline generated the picture of a stern and stubborn patriarch. Later when I had occasion to meet Dr. Parija and had a few words with him, I was reminded of the surprise which I had when I listened to Tagore's voice.

The picture of the disciplinarian remained, but it was mellowed by the humane approach and understanding which were revealed in his personality. Though a stickler after time, he could also understand a situation and put up with delays patiently. I remember, we invited him once to the Bhadrak College as the Chief Guest. Since the road from Cuttack to Bhadrak was very bad, he travelled by train. I was myself at the station to receive him and to drive him to the college. I had an old car and just about in the middle, something went wrong and the car stalled. I did not know much about the inside of a car and started moving this nut and that nut under the bonnet, getting nervous and panicky at the awkward situation. Dr. Parija sat quietly and advised me not to be worried and take things easy. Somehow (but not because of any engineering feat), the car started and I was able to reach the destination.

When not on official duty, it's a pleasure to converse with Dr. Parija. Inspite of the stern exterior that one found in the office room he is an entirely different personality in the drawing room. He has a fund of anecdotes and has a way of telling them which would make one chuckle all the time, without making him boisterous. Even after he passed the age of three score and ten, not only did he continue to be active with his regular morning walks and visits to colleges and other institutions, but his conversation continued to be as amusing and as entertaining as ever to the younger generations.

Dr. Parija's is a rounded personality. It is very difficult to find a scholar who has not only contributed to the quantum of knowledge in the world of science but who also continued to be a complete human being, without angularities and mannerisms which in many others have left a mark of imperfection. Of course, no man is perfect, but Dr. Parija came very near to being one.

My Reminiscences

Rabindra Kumar Misra
Lecturer in Botany, OUAT
Bhubaneswar

Padmabhusan Dr. Prankrisna Parija had left his teacher's job in the Department of Botany, Ravenshaw College before I was born. Yet, I had the privilege of working under him in the same department from 1967 to 1969 when he was a Professor Emeritus and I a research scholar there. At the age of 75 he had more zeal in work than we the young students had. Hence his repeated reproof and his dis-approval of our ways.

I remember very well the time when he flared into a rage at the sight of a silly spelling error in my notes and threw them at my face with the words "You are less than a matriculate". This taught me a lesson and thereafter I never had the guts to go to him with a hastily scribbled note and I always made it a point to check every word of my note with a dictionary before submitting that to him.

Yet, generally he is a quiet man. His words of reaproach for over juvenile negligence were very soft and subtle and thus more penetrating. Once I had the misfortune of experiencing a flat tyre of my bicyle on my way to the College for which I was late by 5 minutes in reaching the Botany Department and meeting the revered Professor. By that time the Professor who was very punctual had left the department leaving a note for me on the table. The words were not simple report, they were a piece of advice which had almost a biblical forcefulness. These are still green in my memory and I have kept that letter as a valued treasure. From that day in my daily life also I try to be punctual.

I have never seen a man more resourceful in his field and very rarely one whose kindness, selflessness and affection for the students can be matched with his. He used to insist on either to drop his name or mention it at the end in the list of authors in our research papers that were to be sent for publication. Financially, many students including me have been very often helped by him and he has burdened us with his kindness and more so with his affection. He behaved with us as he did with his children and grand children. I have found in him a never ending stream of love, affection, generosity and dutyfulness. Let it flow for ever and quench countless thirsty hearts.

Professor P. Parija as I know him

Professor P. K. Sen
University of Calcutta
35 *Ballygunge Circular Road, Calcutta*-19

I saw Professor P. Parija for the first time in 1930 when he came as one of our examiners in M. Sc. Plant Physiology practical paper in Calcutta University. Those days an examiner was considered a dread. My first impression of Professor Parija was, however, a pleasant surprise. He appeared to be an exception. Instead of frightening an examinee he knew how to draw the best out of a student, by his own knowledgeability and loving disposition. He won the heart of all the examinees.

I cannot now say for certain if it was not my esteem of Professor Parija that led me to take up Plant Physiology as my field of higher studies and my career. After doing Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from London University when I was working in Calcutta University, between 1933 and 1935, I had many occasions to come in closer touch with him. My professor Dr. S. P. Agharkar was good friend of his. Then I had the benefit of many helpful discussions with him on my research programme. Later when I joined the Imperial (now Indian) Council of Agricultural Research as Physiological Botanist, I had the privilege of meeting him often in scientific committees of the Council at Delhi and Simla. On some occasions we travelled together. Once when he came to visit Bhagalpur College (under Patna University) I had the good fortune of having him to stay in my house. I was then posted at the Bihar Agricultural Research Station at Sabour in the suberb of Bhagalpur, Bihar. These were the occasions when I came to know the man, Professor Parija, very intimately. His sense of humour and his soft yet candied way of speaking have always impressed me. He was a pleasant blend of the eternal Indian and modern world values. Like him, I was also a village bred man, having been influenced a good deal in my boyhood and youth by the Indian reform movement of the early years of this century. His style of life not only strengthened my moorings but also helped to widen my outlook. In some ways there were similarities in the early life of the two of us. None of us were born with silver spoon in our mouth. He narrated to me many loving reminiscences of his mother which always reminded me of my own mother and deepened my attachment to her. While he has been one of the pioneer leaders of modern Orissa he has also inspired many minds and actions beyond the boundaries of his own State pervading the greater arena of the nation and humanity. I have always looked upon Professor P. Parija as a great teacher and an esteemed friend. May God grant him a longer life in health and pe[illegible] bless us with the light he gives us.



Dr. Deshmukh,
Professor Parija and
Professor Maheswari



'rofessors Maheswari, Parija
nd Sadasivan enjoying coffee
ugust 28, 1957



Prof. Ranjan, Prof. Parija
and Prof. Joshi
Three famous Botanist
Vice-chancellors



Dr. B. P. Pal and Professor Parija



Prof. Parija & Dr. R. Misra



Prof. P. Parija & Prof. P. N. Mehra

Dr. Parija: a great man

Shri B. N. Rohatgi
151, *Pataliputra Colony, Patna*-13

I spent the most formative period of my life from 1932 to 1949 in Orissa having joined the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack as a teacher at the age of 25. And I owe a deep gratitude to Orissa and men of Orissa—Dr. Pranakrushna Parija being one of these outstanding men.

I came in close and intimate touch with Dr. Parija during these 17 years in various capacities. As we all know he is a scholar of inter-national reputation and a great intellectual. He had immense love for students and he took keen interest in their welfare. A deserving and poor student in need of monetary helps hardly ever left his place empty handed. He was generous and kind to them. Successive generations of. students of Orissa know fully well his qualities as a teacher,

What however impressed me most about Dr. Parija are his qualities as a man. Among his outstanding qualities are his austerity and simplicity, truthfulness and straightforwardness, compassion for others, tranquility, gentleness (he was always kind, helpful and courteous to his junior colleagues), modesty and forgiveness.

It was always a pleasure to hear Dr. Parija speaking in any function. His speeches used to be full of wit and humour. He had a nice collection of ancedotes.

My happy and pleasant memory of Orissa and of the noble and wise son of Utkal Dr. Parija in particular will remain evergreen in my memory.

Works and Achievements of Prof. P. Parija

Prof. P. K. Jena, *Director*
Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar
and
Member, State Planning Board, Orissa

I am extremely happy to learn that Prof. P. Parija felicitation committee, Bhubaneswar is going to bring out a Souvenir on the multi-faceted life and work of Prof. P. Parija. Prof. Parija's contribution to Science particularly botany and education is immence and examplary. When Prof. Parija was the Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University he was elected to the high office of the President of the Indian Science Congress during 1960 held at Bombay. I can recall my personal acquaintance with Prof. Parija in 1960 when I was working as a scientist at the Atomic Energy establishment now known as BARC, Bombay. In spite of his very busy programme he readily agreed to spare some of his valuable time for discussing with me about the opening of Metallurgy and Chemical Engineering Departments at the Regional Engineering College, Rourkela. Soon after his return to Orissa he as the Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, took immediate necessary steps in that direction. This indicates his sincerity and objectiveness.

Prof. Parija has been associated with the Regional Research Laboratory. Bhubaneswar since its inception. He was the member of the RRL Planning Committee which formulated the RRL Project in 1964. Later he was nominated as the Chairman of the Laboratory's Executive Council and in this capacity he served the laboratory to the best of his ability for a number of years.

As the Director of his laboratory I had a great pleasure and privilege to seek his constant advice, guidance and helpful co-operation in various scientific and administrative matters of the laboratory in fulfilling its aims and objectives. Due to his initiation and pursuation, research and development work on the isolation, identification of active compounds from herbal sources, survey and cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants in this region was taken up by this laboratory.

The scientific and educational community of our country is proud of and greatly indebted to Prof. Parija for infusing discipline and sincerity in educational sphere and projecting an exemplary and devoted scientific life.

S. N. DAS GUPTA, D.Sc., F.N.A.

1-B, Judges Court Road
Alipore, Calcutta-27

July 14, 1975

My dear Padhi,

I am very happy and I congratulate you and the University authorities on the decision to celebrate the 85th year of Dr. P. Parija.

As you have mentioned Dr. Parija is one of the pioneers of Indian Botany and holds a pre-eminent position amongt he Indian scientists. He has been a perpetual inspiration to generations of students. He is held in high esteem by his colleagues as well as all those who have come in close touch with him as much for his scholarship as for his personal charm. It is a blessing that he is with us these many years.

Apart from the symposium I am not aware of what other forms the celebration will take. But may I suggest that this may be made an occasion to lay a foundation for "Prankrushto Parija Institute of Life Sciences" naturally with Government and public help. If that is not feasible, make a modest start by naming the plant physiology laboratory of the department after him, just as there is "Huxley Laboratory" in the botany department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. Perhaps it is redundant suggestion as doubtless you must have already considered all these aspects.

I thank you for your invitation to contribute a article to the proposed symposium. I shall be happy to do so. But now that I am fully retired I doubt if I can manage it when even collaborative attempts become difficult. Perhaps you will excuse me. In case, however, I can manage to prepare one I shall let you know well in time.

With best wishes,

Yours truly,

Sd/- **S. N. Das Gupta**

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY

DR. B. P. PAL, FRS.
President

Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi-1
17 July, 1975

Dear Professor Padhi,

I am indeed glad to know that the 85th year of Dr. P. Parija is to be celebrated in a befitting manner. I have had the privilege of knowing him for many years and I rejoice with you that Prof. Parija is being honoured.

I, however, send my very best wishes of the success of the undertaking.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- **B. P. Pal**

DR. S. M. SIRCAR
Ph. D. (Lond.), D. I. C, F.N.A., F. A. S.
Director

Bose Institute
93/1 Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rd.
Calcutta-9.

My dear Prof. Padhi,

I am very thankful to you for inviting me to participate in the celebration of 85th year of Prof. Parija in 1976. I shall have greatest pleasure to pay respects to my revered professor with whom I initiated my research career early in the year 1931-32. I hope your efforts will be very successful and would contribute an article in the felicitation volume sometime in October 1975. This is a good idea to utilize sale-proceeds of the felicitation symposium volume for instituting Prof. Parija lectureship in the University.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- S. M. Sircar

PROF. T. S. SADASIVAN

"Dwaraka"
Fairy Falls Road
Kodaikanal

Dear Professor Padhi,

I was delighted to hear that you will be celebrating the 85th year of our most respected and distinguished botanist and educator Professor P. Parija. I recall with pride that I was examined at my Masters' examination at Lucknow in 1935 by this great Indian Physiologist.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- T. S. **Sadasivan**

Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Krishi Bhawan
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road
NEW DELHI

Director-General, ICAR, and
Secretary to the Govt. of India

Dated July 9, '75

Dear Dr. Padhi,

I am very happy to learn that you will be celebrating the 85th birthday of Prof. Parija with the publication of a useful scientific volume. This is an excellent idea and I wish the venture all success.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- **M. S. Swaminathan**

PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

M. S. RANDHAWA,
I.C.S. (RETD.), D.SC., F.N.I.S.A.
VICE-CHANCELLOR

Pant Nagar

25th July, 1975

Dear Dr. Padhi,

I have great personal regard for Dr. P. Parija and the pioneering work which he has done in Plant Physiology in this country. Apart from being a capable scientist he was a real gentleman. I met him on a number of occasions and it was always a pleasure to meet him.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- M. S. **Randhawa**

Grow more trees — **Turn your neighbourhood green.**
